(b) if so, the details of its recommendation and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) In the Eleventh Conference of the State Finance Secretaries held in the Researve Bank of India on January, 9,2003, it was feld that a detailed examination of the issues relating to States' increasing pension liabilities could facilitate the States to initiate appropriate measures in this regard. Accordintly, the State Finance Secretaries formed a Group to study the pension liabilities of State governemnt under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Bhhattacharya, former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka. The group consisted of Finance Secretaries of eight States, representative from the Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare, Government of India, Life Insurance Corproation of India and few experts. The recommendations of the Group would be discussed in the next Conference of the State Finance Secretaries to be held at the Reserve Bank of India.

House rent allowance to spouses of Government employees

2201. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI ANIL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spouses of the Central Government employees working in the autonomous organisation such as Book Trust of India etc. who are not eligible for the allotment of Government accommodations are not being granted House Rent Allowance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor:

(c) whether Government propose to grant HRA to the spouses who are working in autonomous organisations and who are not entitled for the allotment of the Government accommodations; and

(d) if so, by when the orders to this effect are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) to (d) The employees working in the autonomous organisations such as Book Trust of India etc. are paid

HRA as per relevant rules of the autonomous organisation if their spouses are not allotted the Government accommodation. As per HRA Rules, a Government servant shall not be entitled to the HRA if his wife/her husband has been allotted Government accommodation at the same station by the Central Government, State Government, an autonomous public undertaking or semi Government organisation such as Municipality, Port Trust etc. On the same analogy the spouses working in such autonomous organisation are not paid HRA in case Government accommodation at the same station is allotted to their counterpart.

Salaries and jobs of employees in disin vested PSUs

†2203. DR. PRABHATHAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in case of sale out of the PSUs to the private companies by private companies by the Central Government, salaries and jobs of thousands of employees working in their undertakings remain as usual; and

(b) if not, the details of the scheme formulated by Government to provide jobs to thousands of such employees who have been rendered jobless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) and (b) Protection of interest of employees is an integral part of the disinvestment policy of the Government. Adequate provisions are made in the Transaction Agreements, executed as a part of strategic sale, to ensure protection to employees.

The said Agreements provide that there is no retrenchment of employees for one year after disinvestment and even thereafter separation is possible only under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme as applicable under DPE guidelines or the Voluntary Retirement Scheme which was prevailing in the company prior to disinvestment, whichever is more beneficial for employees.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.